



Education Renewal Zones
Statewide Initiative
2013-2014 Annual Report

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Introduction

The Education Renewal Zone is a broad-based P-20 initiative assigned the task of concentrating and coordinating available resources to improve school performance and student achievement. The primary focus is through a collaborative effort of the partners to build the capacity of schools in providing a competent organizational structure, a quality learning environment, and effective research-based instruction for all students. Working in partnership with a College of Education, each ERZ office designs a unique yearly strategic plan synchronized around the individual needs of their schools.

The ERZ initiative was passed into law in 2003 as Act 106 (HB 1065) by the Second Extraordinary Session of the 84th General Assembly in an effort to address the growing number of schools across the state designated as “in need of improvement”. The establishment of Education Renewal Zones provides a vehicle for the collaborative development of a partnership among institutions of higher education, education service cooperatives, public schools, local businesses, parents, and community members all focused on school improvement and systemic educational reform in Arkansas.

Goals

The legislation requires that each ERZ strategically plans implementation of the following:

- Provide collaboration between and among the Higher Education Institution partners, Education Service Cooperatives, schools, and communities participating in the Education Renewal Zone, including within the academic departments within the Higher Education Institution partners.
- Provide for a comprehensive program of professional development to assure the practical knowledge base of pre-service and in-service teachers with respect to

pedagogical practice, content knowledge, and competent use of distance learning technology.

- Serve as a resource for schools to provide enhancement and expansion of local school curricula offerings through the use of two-way interactive television to include advanced placement, dual-credit, and advanced high school courses.
- Support the sharing of faculty for core course offerings when schools are unable to hire highly-qualified teachers in core subject areas required for college entrance or teachers necessary to meet state accreditation standards.
- Collaborate with schools to develop strategies to recruit and retain highly qualified teachers with particular focus on hard-to-staff schools.
- Support a system for mentoring teachers with three (3) or fewer years of professional service.
- Support active participation of the community in the work of the school.
- Support active involvement of parents in the academic work of the student.

Highlights

All ERZ offices have effectively implemented the legislative mandated goals for 2013-14. Each ERZ has a unique population of schools and designs a plan to meet their needs. Directors collectively share successful implementations and collaboratively work to develop new and innovative strategies. Highlights from each ERZ office provide a glimpse into their contributions toward the quest for educational excellence for Arkansas children.



Arkansas State University

Dr. Rick Hux, Director, ASU-Education Renewal Zone

The Arkansas State University (ASU) Education Renewal Zone (ERZ) serves 65 schools in 23 school districts among 12 contiguous counties of Northeast Arkansas. It is worthy of note regarding the importance of ERZ to Arkansas State University's College of Education. Both the Dean of the College and Department Chair for the new unit for teacher and educational leadership, have agreed to give significant consideration to the major goals of ERZ as they begin to define the vision, mission, and goals of their newly formed "School of Teacher Education and Leadership."

During the past year, there were several highly public and collaborative initiatives related to the goals of the ERZ. Ongoing initiatives include: The College Preparatory Academy of the Delta (CPAD) and Future Teachers Day at ASU, NEARK Fall Principals' Conference, Annual Summer Leadership Conference, and ERZ continued collaboration with ASU Center for Community Engagement. Several newly instituted initiatives were also pursued; PARCC Conference for NE Arkansas Schools, Section 504 Workshop, Middle Level Teacher Candidates and Principals Panel Discussion, Regional P-20 Education Town Hall and resulting P-20 Task Force, ERZ ASU School of Teacher Education and Leadership Faculty Meeting, Harry Wong Symposium, and NEARK School Board Training and Symposium.

The following is an overview of some of ASU-ERZ's important activities:

The College Preparatory Academy for the Delta (CPAD) - The purpose of this program is to increase readiness and success of students for college. The CPAD is a grades 9-16 initiative, managed and directed by the ERZ, in collaboration among the ASU ERZ, ASU COE, Arkansas Northeastern College (ANC), American College Testing

(ACT), and the public school partners. Many of the legislative purposes from Act 106 are addressed through the CPAD, including Professional Development, Expanding Curricula, Mentoring, Enhancing Leadership, Staffing, Shared Funding Sources, and Parent and Community Involvement. To design and implement the Academy continues as an ongoing process. During this past year, the ERZ has been working with ASU Sponsored Programs, Blytheville Schools, and the ASU College of Education to advance funding for this program beyond the present academic year, when the present grant funding is expended. The ERZ was the lead writer for a new grant combining various funding sources for over \$1 Million. This was a collaborative effort among the Dean and Chair for COE, Blytheville Schools, and will ultimately result in continued college preparatory programming for 300 students over a three-year period.

The ASU ERZ Future Teachers Day and College of Education Open House – This event is directed at the goal of recruiting and retaining highly qualified teachers’ especially for Northeast Arkansas and along the Delta. This event was held on November 6, 2013. Approximately 36 school districts, over 225 students, 25 University faculty presenters, and many parents attended the event.

Northeast Arkansas Principals’ Association and Conferences - The Northeast Arkansas Principals Association was organized under the direction of the ASU-ERZ in 2012. The organization proves to be a valuable collaboration for connecting the university and leadership in area schools. The organization hosts two conferences each year; fall and spring. This year’s fall conference (October 2nd, 2013) featured “Hot Button Topics” featuring ADE officials, and local principals leading breakout sessions on various topics; LEADS, TESS, eSchool, Common Core, School Choice and PLC’s. All of the principal presenters and discussion leaders were from ASU-ERZ partner schools. The spring meeting (May 6, 2014) was held in conjunction with the Harry Wong event and directed at Dr. Wong’s discussion of classroom management and TESS/Common Core. Average attendance at these events is approximately 150 principals.

Annual Summer Leadership Conference – A collaboration among the CRESC, ERZ, and College of Education to provide summer leadership institute for area school leaders. Approximately 150 in attendance from 23 Districts of CRESC, including partner schools, July 9th and 10th. Topics: Effective Instruction, Drugs/Tobacco/Child Maltreatment, Professional Growth Plans, Teacher fair Dismissal and TESS, Approximately 125 attendees

ERZ Collaboration with ASU Center for Community Engagement – The ERZ has developed a highly structured relationship with ASU's Center of Community Engagement (CCE) in providing services to area schools. This includes assistance with developing, validating, and interpreting survey data, providing PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports) programs and implementation for schools and school-wide evaluation.

PARCC Conference for NE Arkansas Schools in collaboration with ADE, ESC's, College of Education/faculty, NE Arkansas ELC and NE Arkansas Public Schools- Sponsored and produced by the ASU-ERZ; Approximately 215 in attendance on January 23, 2014. Discussion Topics included: ELA and Math Shifts, Literacy in Science and Social Studies, PARCC and Technology, Accessibility, Accommodations and Fairness. Presenters included 4 representatives from ADE, 6 master teachers from partner schools, and 2 professors from ASU.

Section 504 Workshop - ASU-ERZ responded to schools' request for 504 training by hosting a 504 Conference on the campus of ASU attended by 60 school leaders representing over 30 area schools.

Middle Level Teacher Candidates and Principals Panel Discussion – The ERZ in collaboration with teachers from the School of Teacher Education and Leadership, Mid-level students organization, along with 6 principals from area and ERZ partner schools held a panel discussion on the topic of readiness for the employment application and

interview. Approximately 35 mid-level candidates attended this event on October 15, 2013.

Regional P-20 Education Town Hall and resulting P-20 Task Force - The ERZ collaborated with its three partner ESC's, the College of Education, Provost' and Chancellor's Offices, public schools and ADE to organize and present the "Regional P-20 Education Town Hall" on February 25, 2014. Approximately 135 persons attended including parents, business and community leaders, public, pre-school and vocational educators and administrators, college and university faculty and administrators. The collaboration resulted in the formation of a P-20 Task Force of 30 representatives who will continue the work of identifying areas where transitions for P-20 students can be improved.

Harry Wong Symposium – The ASU- ERZ in collaboration with ESC's, Public Schools, College of Education and ADE, provided a symposium on Classroom Management for 900 PK-12 Northeast Arkansas school professionals, university faculty, and pre-service teachers. The program was presented by Drs. Harry and Rosemary Wong at Arkansas State University May 6, 2014. This event was followed by additional afternoon professional development for teachers and administrators.

Visited

- 15 of the 23 ERZ school districts
- 37 of the 65 ERZ schools
- ESC's: Harrisburg, Great Rivers and Northeast.
- 9 non-ERZ Partner Districts

Attend various superintendent meetings

Collaborations(/Involvement) With University and Public School Faculty -

Professional Education Advisory Committee for ERZ (Chair), ASU Common Core Advisory Council (Chair), Serving on COE Committee to consider full year internships and professional development schools, Professional Education Faculty Council,

Teacher Education Common Core Conference Committee (Co-Chair), Arkansas ACT State Council, Business Department on a summer institute for teachers, Summer Writing Project, Summer CSI program, PBIS, COE/ELCSE Summer Institute for School Leaders , Organized meetings for COE Dean and area superintendents, Organized visits for faculty to New Tech School at Cross County , Host superintendents and principals on ACU Campus on various occasions, Collaboration with Leadership Academy on grant to train non-traditional school leaders, Collaboration for SEED grant on Writing Project with Westside Schools, Summer School Law and Special Education Conference, Attendance at Craighead Superintendents meetings, and College Night at Blytheville Schools Participated in MDC Training.



Henderson State University

Paulette Blacknall, Director, Southwest-A Education Renewal Zone

Southwest-A Education Renewal Zone/Henderson

The Southwest-A Education Renewal Zone (ERZ)/Henderson is currently comprised of 13 school districts and 39 schools, four education service cooperatives (Dawson, South Central, De Queen-Mena, and Wilbur D. Mills), and one Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Center (South Arkansas Math and Science Center/Henderson). The ERZ has formed informal partnerships with one four-year university (Ouachita Baptist University) and three two-year colleges (National Park Community College/Hot Springs, University of Arkansas Community College/Hope, and College of the Ouachitas/Malvern) to strengthen college and career readiness in southwest Arkansas schools. These partnerships include the sharing of resources (human and physical), facilities, expertise, and technical assistance. Below are examples of programs collaboratively developed by/implemented in this P-20 partnership:

Southwest Arkansas College Preparatory Academy

Clark County leaders recognized the impact of high school dropouts and graduates with insufficient college and career preparedness and launched SWACPA to provide targeted intervention to increase high school matriculation to college and careers. Since its pilot in 2009, the program has developed a strong reputation and is highly sought after by school districts, students, and parents. To meet the demand, SWACPA has expanded to 4 total college campuses, serving 16 school districts in 6 counties in Southwest Arkansas; participating districts' current graduation rates range from 63% to 97%, averaging 85%, lower than Arkansas' statewide rate of 88%. At present, SWACPA serves 472 students; successive grade levels of student cohorts are added annually. Once all grades are offered at every campus, SWACPA's capacity will be 784 students. Arkadelphia is home to two universities that partner with SWACPA, Henderson State (HSU) and Ouachita Baptist (OBU). SWACPA's students benefit from foundation and other privately-funded scholarships that close any tuition funding gaps and are available to all area students who qualify for state lottery scholarships.

SWACPA students attend classes at HSU and 3 nearby community colleges, the University of Arkansas Community College at Hope, National Park Community College at Hot Springs, and College of the Ouachitas at Malvern. Students participate in 4-years of intensive academic instruction and academic skills training led by teams of high school teachers and college professors in classes of 10 to 12 students. Small classes permit individualized instruction focused on core academic subjects (math, English, science, and reading) and career exploration. Monthly Saturday classes during the school year are reinforced in a 2-week summer session. Students are exposed to college life through on-campus classes and dining and attending campus events. Periodic Pre-ACT or ACT tests are used to evaluate student progress and needs. By ensuring that interested, but underperforming and at-risk, students are provided enriched educational programming geared toward college preparedness and located on college campuses, SWACPA successfully intervenes to assure that participants are motivated and equipped for high school graduation and post-secondary success.

Visiting Professors

The Visiting Professor Program began in 2006 with professors from Henderson State University and teachers from three ERZ partner schools. The concept of the Visiting Professor allows a college or university professor to adopt an elementary, middle, or secondary public school classroom and mentor teachers and students throughout the school year. The university and high school teachers work together as teams to develop strategies and determine best practices for teaching to improve and enhance overall performance of students in both the public school and university settings. The program has expanded at the university level to include multiple departments that includes: Science (biology, physical science, genetics, physiology, anatomy, chemistry, physics), Math (multiple subjects), Special Education, Educational Leadership (Graduate Program), Nursing, Theater Arts, Curriculum and Instruction, Advanced Educational Studies, P-4 Instruction

Professional Development Collaborative and Hot Topics

The ERZ sponsors professional development opportunities for students, faculty, staff, and public school partner teachers and students during the fall and spring semesters annually. Targeted, research-based professional development designed to assist pre-service teachers to smoothly transition to public schools and designed to promote continuous learning is provided by Education Service Cooperatives, ADE, STEM Center, public school specialists, and other professional educators. This professional development collaborative has evolved to include non-traditional students and public school students. Non-practicing educators wanting to continue licensure status are also invited to participate. Topics have included:

- Using iPads to Facilitate Classroom Management
- Teaching to Teach Differently: SREB Literacy/Math Design Collaborative
- The Arkansas Teacher Excellence Support System
- Using Data to Improve Academic Achievement in Middle Schools
- Got Technology? Integrating Technology into Physical Education
- Got Standards? The Power of Integrating Common Core State Standards into Physical Education

- Quick Response to Literacy
- Arkansas Code of Ethics
- Using Social Media as a Tool for 21st Century Learners
- Teacher Excellence Support System (TESS)
- PARCC
- Understanding by Design (UbD)
- Research-Based Instructional Strategies
- Parental Involvement in the Academic Work of Schools
- Next Generation Science Standards

The ERZ also assists with providing resources for Hot Topics, eight days of required professional development for interns to expose pre-service teachers to topics that are on the forefront of education in Arkansas and to ensure full licensure status.

New Teacher Induction

The ERZ sponsors the New Teacher Induction program at Henderson to offer additional support to schools. This program provides mentoring for novice and career teachers. The ERZ collaborates with co-ops, public schools, and other service providers to offer a 2 ½ day Induction Retreat for all ERZ schools. Participants are paired with mentors from education service cooperatives, Math and Science Center, and higher education who provide support, assistance, and formative feedback throughout the year. The ERZ office collaborates with education service cooperatives, Henderson faculty, and school district administrators to expand and approve the model and plan for delivery of services.



Southern Arkansas University

Dr. Richard C. Guevara, Director of Education Renewal Zone

Collaboration

SAU ERZ Learning Fair: Each fall and spring, the SAU ERZ collaborates with the Teacher Preparation Department and an ERZ school partner in designing numerous learning activities based on the actual school data, teacher needs, and pre-candidate skills.

Cooperating teachers, Teacher Preparation professors, Educational Leadership professors, campus administrators, and campus instructional facilitators all work together to design, implement, and evaluate a full day of university based learning experiences for elementary students.

Professional Development

The South Arkansas Integrated Science and Mathematics Initiative: Year One project activities provides 100 contact hours of professional development. Essential activities included a two-week, 60-hour summer institute in June and August of 2013. The summer institute used Compressed Interactive Video (CIV) to reach participants at both South Central Service Cooperative (East Team) and at Texarkana (West Team) at Arkansas High School. Two Saturday professional development days totaling 12 contact hours and at least 1 site visit to each participating teachers' classrooms have been completed by trained RTOP professors. A total of 44 teachers from 17 different school districts participated in this initiative.

Professional Development

Southern Arkansas University Math Science Integration Project: A key tenet of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) is that disciplines must be integrated and applied to real world practical situations. As an overarching theme, this research project emphasizes that these concepts need to be made explicit for students because they provide an organizational schema for interrelating knowledge from various science fields into a coherent and scientifically-based view of the world. These concepts were delivered to facilitate math and science integration to 27 math and science teachers on the following dates: Summer Institute Week 1 and 2 : 6/24-27/13 and 7/8-11/13, Fall Invitational (Saturday): 10/5/13 and Spring Invitational (Saturday): 2/22/14.

Professional Development

The South Arkansas Mathematics Standards Partnership Grant

The South Arkansas Math Partnership leadership brings together a sustained partnership between Southern Arkansas University, SAU Education Renewal Zone, University of Central Arkansas, South Central Service Cooperative, and 14 partner schools to address the implementation of the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics in south Arkansas. The proposed Year Three South Arkansas Mathematics Standards Partnership created exciting opportunities for enhanced and ongoing professional development of 40 mathematics teachers in grades 3-8. The focus was to improve teacher content knowledge in mathematics and establishes follow-up training for elementary and middle school mathematics teachers that directly relates to the Common Core State Standards.



The University of Arkansas

Elizabeth E. Smith, Director, Education Renewal Zone

The University of Arkansas Education Renewal Zone, housed in the College of Education and Health Professions, is committed to improving public school performance through collaboration between the UA, local public schools, the Northwest Education Service Cooperative, and the community. The UA ERZ provides opportunities for public schools and institutions of higher education to communicate, partner, and share resources through a variety of means. The focus of the UA ERZ is to respond to partner school needs, large and small.

Adopt-A-Classroom

Adopt-A-Classroom (AAC) was designed to provide opportunities for UA faculty/staff and P-12 teachers to collaborate. AAC pairs a UA faculty/staff member with a P-12 teacher to teach once a month in their classroom. This outreach program promotes college attendance among P-12 students, connects P-12 teachers to the UA's

resources, and allows UA faculty/staff to better understand the challenging and rewarding nature of working in a P-12 school. During the 2013-14 school year, 31 UA faculty/staff volunteered to partner with 30 P-12 teachers at 14 schools in six school districts.

AAC partnerships vary greatly by content area and school. One example is Dr. Kevin Fitzpatrick, chair of the UA Department of Sociology and Director of the Community and Family Institute, and his partnership with Mrs. Suki Highers, sociology teacher at Fayetteville High School. Dr. Fitzpatrick designed a yearlong project for his AAC students that include integrating English and photography into sociology. Students discussed an understanding of the concept of community. They were then asked to create a photographic essay reflecting this meaning. The culminating event of the partnership was a reception at where all of the photographs were displayed and judged by a panel.

Rebecca Martindale, a UA web designer, was paired with Mr. Gene Kephart's class at Lincoln High School. Mrs. Martindale facilitated several projects with this class including app development, web design, and promoting healthy lifestyles. Additionally, she worked with a group within the class to pair them with a UA mentor in their area of interest. Mrs. Martindale equipped the classroom with technology that allowed students to connect with their UA mentors via Skype and planned a visit for students and mentors to meet face-to-face on the UA campus.

UA faculty/staff meets once a semester to share ideas and offer insight into how to have successful AAC partnerships. The AAC program officially concluded with a Celebration Reception on April 14, 2014. Many of the relationships formed will continue throughout the next school year. Another cohort of UA volunteers will be recruited in fall 2014 to begin new partnerships with local teachers.

Northwest Arkansas P-20 Task Force

The Northwest Arkansas P-20 Task Force is a joint venture between the UA ERZ and the Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative (NWAESC). The mission of the NWA P-20 Task Force is to improve the transitions of pre-kindergarten through post-graduate students in NWA by minimizing barriers; expanding conversations among

education, industry, and community stakeholders; increasing student and parent awareness of the impact of educational opportunities and choices; and addressing the changing regional and global workforce needs. The NWA P-20 Task Force hosted seventy-five educators at its January 24 meeting. At this meeting, Dr. Tom Kimbrell, Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education, and Mr. Shane Broadway, Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, spoke about the importance of the collaborative efforts of the Task Force and answered questions about a variety of topics. This meeting created a model for other Education Renewal Zones in the state, some of which then hosted P-20 town halls. The NWA P-20 Task Force hosted a one-day regional P-20 education conference on June 17, 2014, with sessions by and for P-12 educators, higher education professionals, industry professionals, and legislators.

Literacy Design Collaborative

The UA ERZ has provided significant support for the Literacy Design Collaborative during the 2013-14 school year. UA ERZ program coordinator, Mrs. Priscilla Wetzel, volunteered to serve as a state trainer and mentored teachers at Gentry High School and other area schools throughout the year. Additionally, she created and delivered LDC presentations to participating teachers on four occasions. Mrs. Wetzel wrote a social studies module that was selected by SREB to be considered by the national LDC administrators to be published on their website as an exemplar for other teachers.

Future Teacher's Day

At the request of a partner school district, the UA ERZ created Future Teacher's Day to assist schools in growing their own highly qualified teachers. Eighty-five students from three high schools attended Future Teacher's Day on October 15, 2014 to learn about the UA teacher education programs by speaking with current faculty and students and engaging in an activity designed for pre-service teachers. Students heard from an admissions representative about how to apply to the UA and they also toured the campus. The first Future Teacher's Day filled to capacity within a few days. Another Future Teacher's Day was held on April 15, 2014, with a focus on recruiting

students from rural schools who are interested in teaching in STEM fields. The UA ERZ will continue to plan these events each semester if the demand from partner schools persists.

Additional support for schools

UA ERZ partner schools frequently reach out for specialized assistance based on their needs including recruiting UA student tutors, connecting to faculty for professional development, and organizing and funding campus visits for groups of students. The UA ERZ provides collaboration opportunities for partners at Advisory Board meetings by encouraging schools and institutions of higher education to share ideas and solutions. Overall, UA ERZ activities are driven by both formal and informal needs assessments and designed to support collaboration among partners and improve student achievement in NWA schools.



The University of Arkansas at Fort Smith

Jennifer Jennings Davis, Education Renewal Zone Director, Western Arkansas Education Renewal Zone

UAFS-College of Education's Annual Curricular Advisory Conference—Drs. Harry and Rosemary Wong

The Western Arkansas ERZ hosted Drs. Harry and Rosemary Wong as part of the College of Education's Annual Curricular Advisory Conference. The ERZ surpassed its projected goals with 709 attendees at the event held at the downtown Fort Smith Convention Center. Of the 709 attendees, 428 participants completed conference feedback surveys. From those surveys, we learned that the majority of attendees were pre-service teachers, followed by career teachers. Twenty-three high school students enrolled in their high school's Intro to Education course were in attendance.

Also attending were university faculty members from UAFS, U of A, University of the Ozarks, UA-Monticello, Northeastern State—Tahlequah (OK), and Emporia State University—Emporia (KS). Regional district personnel attended as well as STEM Center math and science specialists, speech and language pathologists, literacy coaches, ELL coordinators, school counselors, adult education teachers, retired teachers, ADE representatives, and COOP personnel. Admission was free, open to the public, and greatly appreciated by participants as indicated in their survey responses. Below are a few of their comments:

2nd Annual Festival of Science

This was the brain-child of Drs. Jen Jamison and Dave McGinnis, chemistry professors at UAFS. Their goal was to host an engaging, carnival-like event that provided hands-on opportunities for area elementary students that would cultivate an excitement and passion for science. This annual fall event attendance grew over previous years. Participation is limited to 3rd graders; we tripled the attendance to over 90 students, parents (and sometime family—little siblings often joined in). We had an increase of UAFS student volunteers and an increase in UAFS faculty volunteers. Students from Mansfield, Hackett, and many Fort Smith Public schools participated.

3. The Mentoring Project

The Mentoring Project is in its third year of implementation. It is a collaborative effort with Darby Junior High's Ranger Recon Program (an afterschool program funded with a 21st Century Grant), the Western Arkansas ERZ, and UAFS student volunteer mentors. UAFS student mentors have expanded from exclusively the Chancellor's Leadership Council members, to include students from various Greek organizations, Student Government Association, Students Helping Students Achieve (first-generation college student organization), and the UAFS Honors Student Program. Depending on academic calendars, 4 to 6 mentoring opportunities are scheduled each semester—some at Darby Junior High and some on the UAFS campus. The junior high students build meaningful mentoring relationships with the university students. The purpose of this program is for Darby Junior High student to begin visualizing themselves as college

students, learn about opportunities at the university (both present and future) and have a buddy to whom they can ask questions regarding the university experience.



University of Arkansas at Monticello

Tracie A. Jones, Director, Southeast/UAM Education Renewal Zone

During 2013-2014, the Southeast/UAM Education Renewal Zone has had many successful partnership projects. The partnership includes 15 school districts (47 schools), the Southeast Arkansas Education Service Cooperative, and the University of Arkansas at Monticello (UAM). UAM is an open admissions university with many of the students being first generation college attendees. Due to this reason, a partnership to provide a College Experience Day was formed in 2012-2013 with the Drew Central Middle School Eighth Grade Career Orientation class. In 2013-2014, Drew Central had approximately 100 students participate in the College Experience opportunity. Each semester after the students take the KUDER exam, the students and their teachers visit campus. The KUDER exam results are utilized to place the students in career clusters, so they are able to visit with a college professor from the career area about important high school classes, course work for the different degrees, and then careers in the field. The students participate in a tour of the university library and the campus. The highlight of the visit is always lunch in the cafeteria. Many students state in their responses from the visit, "I think I can go to college; I never thought about coming to UAM, but now I plan to; and I need to take those higher-level math and science classes in high school to prepare me for college and my career." This opportunity has been extended to all of the partnership schools.

Partnership support has been an important focus of the UAM Education Renewal Zone Director during the 2013-2014 year. The UAM Education Renewal Zone Director has served on the advisory boards for the Star City High School EAST Core and the Monticello Middle School 21st Century After-School Programs. During

advisory board meetings, conversations and information are shared between teachers, administrators, and community members on how to get the community more active in the public school classrooms. This has been a valuable support tool as the schools are providing opportunities for students in the communities to make a difference.

Great leaders are great leaders because of their ability to support and influence others to achieve more than believed or thought possible. Leaders use their knowledge, skills, and language to guide, scaffold, motivate, and inspire. The Education Renewal Zone at UAM has focused efforts on supporting leadership in the ERZ partnership. Since May 2013, fifty-eight administrators, teacher leaders, and university faculty have completed Coaching for Results Global Leadership Coaching for High Performance Level I, and sixteen have completed Powerful Coaching Level II.